

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00
DOE-15 SOE-02 EB-08 COME-00 L-03 OPIC-03 /105 W
-----054769 282353Z /14

R 271633Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9722
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11796

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, EINV, CPRS, SY, GW, US
SUBJECT: DEUTSCHE-TEXACO-ERDOL/CONCORDIA (DTA)
CLAIM AGAINST SARG

REF: 77 BONN 19564

1. ON JUNE 26 CECIL OLMSTED, VICE PRESIDENT OF
TEXACO, INFORMED EMBASSY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR THAT
DTA HAD DECIDED TO BECOME MORE FLEXIBLE IN ITS
NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA ON THE CONCORDIA CLAIM.
2. TEXACO HAS DECIDED TO PROPOSE A FLEXIBLE PACKAGE
OF ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SETTLEMENT OF THEIR CLAIM.
THE PACKAGE COULD CONSIST OF ONE OR MORE OF THE
FOLLOWING ELEMENTS: A) CASH; B) ACCEPTANCE OF
DELIVERY OF SYRIAN OIL; C) ACCESS TO OIL EXPLORA-
TION RIGHTS IN SYRIA IN ANY OF A NUMBER OF FORMS.
3. OLMSTED SAW SYRIAN AMBASSADOR TO GERMANY
(AL-ATASSI) ON JUNE 26 AND PROMISED TO SUBMIT TO
AL-ATASSI IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS A WRITTEN DESCRIPTION
OF THE TEXACO PROPOSAL, DISCUSSING ONLY GENERAL
PRINCIPLES AND NOT SPECIFIC NUMBERS. AL-ATASSI
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UNDERTOOK TO RELAY IT TO DAMASCUS.

4. IN LIGHT OF REPORT FROM FRG AMBASSADOR TO
SYRIA PECKERT ON HIS MAY 3 MEETING WITH SYRIAN
PETROLEUM MINISTER DARWICH, TEXACO HOPES SYRIANS
MAY BE INTERESTED IN A SETTLEMENT. SYRIAN FIFTEEN-
YEAR STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON CONCORDIA CLAIM WILL

EXPIRE IN 1979. IF SYRIANS DO NOT REACT PROMPTLY, TEXACO WILL SOON HAVE TO PROTECT ITS INTERESTS UNDER THE SYRIAN STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS BY BEGINNING ARBITRATION PROCEDURES AND TAKING OTHER LEGAL MEASURES.

5. HENZE OF FRG ECONOMICS MINISTRY, WHO WAS PRESENT DURING DISCUSSIONS, REPORTED THAT A GERMAN-SYRIAN INVESTMENT PROTECTION TREATY HAD BEEN INITIALED IN OCTOBER 1977, BUT RATIFICATION PROCEDURES HAVE NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED. HENZE SAID THAT THE SYRIANS HAD ACCEPTED THE GERMAN DRAFT OF THE TREATY VIRTUALLY WITHOUT CHANGE.

6. OLMSTED AND HIS COLLEAGUES FROM DEUTSCHE TEXACO PROMISED TO KEEP THE EMBASSY INFORMED OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS.
STOESSEL

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